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CONCORDIA INVITATIONAL BASKETBALL  
TOURNAMENT

The 1976 edition of the Concordia Women's Invitational Basketball Tournament will have the strongest field ever assembled in Canadian Women's Basketball. The All-Canadian tourney, which gets underway Friday at the Concordia Athletic Complex, will feature the Laurentian Vees, defending Canadian University Champions, the Atlantic Conference titlest, U.N.B. Red Bloomers, and league rivals St. Mary's Huskies and St. Francis Xavier X-ettes, Simon Fraser University, a NAIA school that hails from Vancouver, British Columbia, the Ottawa Gee Gees, University of Quebec at Trois Rivieres, Patriotes and the host, Concordia Stingers.

This year's field includes seven National Team players including Anne Hurley and Chris Critelli of Laurentian, Liz Silcott and Sylvia Sweeney of Concordia, Carol Turney and Donna Hobin at St. Mary's and coach Joyce Douthwright Slip of the U.N.B. Red Bloomers. There will also be seven members of the Junior National Team, coached by Concordia's Mike Hickey, including Stinger Gay Owens; Kathy Jennings, Michele Belanger and Kim Hansen of Laurentian; St. Francis Xavier's Claire Mitton and Gail Klaver of Simon Fraser.

Laurentian appears to be the class of the tourney with former Quebec Team player Jan Trombly, Corinne Coté who played with Bob Butler's Ottawa Rookies, and Terry Hanson joining Norm Vickery's impressive list of national players. The Vees have captured the last three national championships and are odds-on favourite to repeat this year.

There are a few teams, however, who might have a say in the matter. And one of them is the host Concordia team.

"We feel that if we can substain our running game and get solid help from our bench, we can play with anyone in North America." Hickey stated yesterday. "Liz

Silcott and Sylvia Sweeney are two experienced players who have proven themselves on the court. But we have a lot more than just those two."

Indeed, the Stingers line-up also includes former John Abbott stars Debbie Hubbard and Cheryl Peterson, Junior nat Owens, Vermont High School All-star Wanda Hines joining a returning nucleus of six veterans, headed by Paddie Chiara and Elaine Betchinski. And while Concordia has been running away in games against local competition, their tournament should give them an idea where they stand nationally.

The U.N.B. Red Bloomers, second-place finishers in the Nationals for the past three years, will again field a scrappy, never-say-die team. Coach Slip has lost league All-stars Kim Hansen and Janet Goggin, but feels new recruits will fill the void left. One of these recruits is Beaconsfield's Moira Pryde, former Dawson College and John Rennie High School star.

St. Mary's sports a new coach, Mickey Fox, and two new players, Hobbin and Turney and should give the Red Bloomers a fight for the Atlantic Conference Championship. Fox also has league All-star Cindy Britten and 6'6 Debbie Steele, but the loss of Nancy Knowlton through an eligibility ruling will hurt.

The Simon Fraser Clan will come east with a big, aggressive team that will give any and everyone trouble on the court. Barb Robertson's squad boasts four players over six feet tall.

Action gets underway Friday at 3 p.m. when UNB tangles with Simon Fraser, followed by the Laurentian-St. Francis Xavier contest. At 7 p.m. St. Mary's plays Trois-Rivieres Patriotes and the Concordia meets the Ottawa Gee-Gees.

Saturday morning will feature the consolation games with the semis slated for the afternoon. The Championship game will be at 9 p.m. At halftime of the title tilt, a lucky ticket draw will be made for a Training Suit, Shoes and Travel Bag, compliments of Adidas. Jack Donohue, Canada's Olympic Team Coach, will present the Awards following the final game.

The Junior Varsity Hockey squad also enjoyed a successful season, capturing the Western Hockey League playoffs. The J.V.'s downed the regular season Champion Distasio squad in the playoff finals.

And the Women's Ice Hockey team finished first in the Montreal Women's Ice Hockey League, before bowing to the McGill Super Squaws in the final playoff round.

The Soccer team, guided by Harry Hus, went undefeated in league play and advanced to the C.I.A.U. National finals in Victoria, B.C. for the third consecutive season. However, ultimate victory was denied as they dropped a 2-1 decision to the University of Victoria.

The Varsity Basketball Team captured the league title and placed sixth in the National Championships in Halifax. Doug Daigneault's squad placed four players on the all-league team (Ron Puskarich, John Erglis, John Dore and Bob Brix) and Puskarich was picked for the All-Canadian second team.

Both the Varsity Football and Women's Basketball teams reached the league playoffs before bowing out in the opening rounds. John Montelapare, Bernie Muldoon, Elaine Betchinski and Paddie Chiari, all received All-Star Honours.

The Minor sports programme received a much needed shot in the arm under the leadership of George Short, Assistant Athletic Director. Short expanded the schedules and practice time of each sport, as well as adding track and field to the programme. In addition, plans are being made for the First Concordia International Invitation Soccer Tournament for the 1976 season, as well as the addition of a junior varsity soccer team.

With the merger of the two campuses, the intramural programme was revamped to serve the athletic and recreational needs of all students. Under the direction of Bob Philip, the entire programme was divided into four categories, competitive men, competitive women, co-ed instructional and recreational clubs. A total of 49

different activities were offered on the two campuses, including 9 new activities (Jazz Ballet, Tai-Chi, Jakata, Baseball Club, Outdoor Club, Weekend Club, Ball Hockey, Netball and Ringette.

Whenever possible, activities were offered on both campuses and Concordia students were able to participate in any activity on either campus. In addition, increased free time in the rink allowed many students an opportunity to skate off their problems. This proved particularly beneficial to the Sir George people, who in past years have not been able to acquire ice time. Paul Arsenault directed the Men's competitive programme at Loyola, while Pat Boland and Jane Tanner supervised the Women's programme, as well as the co-ed and recreational activities. In all 2,619 people participated in the 1975-76 academic year, an increase of over 10% from the previous year.

Thus, in reviewing Concordia's initial year, one must be satisfied with the results. The intercollegiate teams molded together and continued in the Loyola-Sir George tradition of fine play. But more importantly, there was a renewed interest on both campuses in the intercollegiate programme, (as evidenced by the response to the "Name the Team" contest and the "Train Ride" to Toronto) and a continued growth in the intramural and recreational programmes.

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